SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: I made it absolutely clear that as far as the UN observers are concerned, it is not their job to interfere in our internal affairs. Kashmir is part of our country and which ever way we deal with it, it is none of their business to go and inquire and report.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, my question has not been answered. I wanted to know whether he will ask for the withdrawal of the UN Observers' Post in J & K.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: They are there to supervise the line of actual control. They have nothing to do with our internal affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: S. Q. No. 23.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, he has not answered my question.

Committee on J & K

*23. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Committee to take steps to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the names of members of this Committee;

(c) what are the terms of reference of this Committee;

(d) what would be its relationship with the Home Ministry and the details of the functions of the Committee;

(e) whether the Committee would give directives to the State Government to ensure normalcy in the State; and

(f) if so, what would be the constitutional sanctity of the directives to be issued to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: I am sorry that this Government has not seen the announcement of its own Prime Minister, which was made on 11th March, 1990 and which was covered by all the leading dailies of India. I quote from *The Hindustan Times*, just in support of my question. I need your protection also because the Home Minister has totally denied my question. I had asked whether it is a fact that the Government has constituted a Committee to take steps to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. The Government has replied "No". So, Sir, I quote from *The Hindustan Times*:

> The Prime Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh, today entrusted the Railway Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, with the additional charge of Kashmir Affairs and constituted a six-Member Committee to assist him in initiating steps to restore normalcy in the Valley. The Committee representing major political parties consists of Mr. Surendra Mohan of National Front, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar of Congress(I), Mr. Kedar Nath Sahni of BJP, Mr. M. Farooqi of CPI, Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury of CPM and Mr. P. L. Handoo of National Conference.

Now, I would like to know from the Minister when this type of announcement had been made by the Prime Minister, how the Government had denied it blatantly. It has violated the privilege of a Member also by not coordinating with the working of the Prime Minister's Office. I do not know whether the Prime Minister has constituted this Committee in his

personal capacity or there are any differences between the Minister in charge of J & K Affairs in the Cabinet and the Home Minister. He has not got it on his record that such a Committee has been constituted.

My second supplementary is, if such a Committee has been constituted, is the Government going to take assistance of the Committee in creating a normal situation in the Valley?

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: The hon. Member has asked this question about bringing about normalcy. Sir, there was an all-party meeting on the Kashmir question to consider how to deal with it. Then an all-party delegation visited Srinagar. After their return they suggested there should be an advisory committee with the Kashmir Affairs Minister. There is an Advisory Committee to advise on a long-term basis as to how to deal with the situation and how to start the political process. That Committee is meeting frequently. They are giving feed-back information to the concerned Minister. They are discussing the strategy as to how to tackle the situation and how to start the political, process. That Committee is already existing. On the suggestion of the all-party conference this Committee is meeting. They are discussing the situation. They are evolving the strategy. That is a continuous process... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: My point is violation of the privilege of the Member. The Minister of State for Home Affairs has clearly denied that any such committee... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, he said that there is an Advisory Committee...

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: My another question is...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: It is on a Presidential communique that a separate Ministry has been formed.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Either there is a Committee or there is no Committee. There is a contradition between the Minister and the Minister of State. As the Minister says there is a committee, answers to (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) should be given.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Different constituents of the Committee have asked that a separate Ministry should be formed to look after the J&K affairs. What is the reply of the Home Minister? There are differences between the Minister of J&K Affairs and the Home Minister and that is why the Home Minister does not want to bring anything on the record and he has blatantly denied that any such Committee has been constituted.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: Sir, I again say, a Committee was constituted in which the representatives of all the... (*Interruptions*)...All party Advisory Committee was constituted and they have been meeting the concerned Kashmir Affairs Minister. I am also going to meet them. They have been discussing the situation existing in Kashmir. As far as this campaign of disinformation is concerned... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Now you said that no such Committee has been constituted.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: The question, Mr. Razi, that you asked was...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister...

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: I must make it clear...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please. Mr. Viren Shah has raised a very relevant question. If there is a Committee, then, you should reply

part (b), (c) (d), (e) and (f). You cannot say "Do not arise." It is not correct. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: I must make it clear...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can do it. You can take your time.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: The question the hon. Member asked was...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have read it. A Committee includes an Advisody Committee. That is simple English.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED: He asked "Whether the Government has constituted a Committee to take steps to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir", I say, a Committee was constituted in order to sort out a political process. ..(*Interruptions*)... It is a whole process. It is not only normalcy... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Normalcy is not the political process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very clear that this Committee comes within the purview of this and I wish next time you answer this question.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: May we know, Sir, what is the purpose of initiating the political process if it is not to restore normalcy?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: You could have said, "There is no such Committee but there is an Advisory Committee and these are terms of reference." That would have been a more honest reply.

श्री सभापति : आपका यह सवाल अगले हफ्ते आ जायेगा । अगले हफ्ते तक इस सवाल पर जो आपके बाकी सब हैं उनका जवाब दे दिया जायेगा ।

SHRI SUBHAMANIAN SWAMY: It should be number one on the order paper.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am postponing the question.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Thank you, Sir.

Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute

*24. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:†

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 233 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware of unanimous resolution of Maharashtra, State Assembly requesting the Central Government to settle the long standing border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka; and

(b) whether it has also been suggested that opinion poll should be taken in the disputed area and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No communication in this regard has been received from the Government of Maharashtra in the recent past.

(b) In early 1989 the Government of Maharashtra had suggested holding of an opinion Poll to resolve the dispute. The Government of India are of the view that this dispute can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned. Consistent with this policy, the Chief Ministers of the two States have been addressed suggesting to them to explore the possibility of arriving at a mutually acceptable solution to the dispute through fresh bilateral discussions and offering such

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.